

Message Text

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43/14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 GAC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /093 W

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R 240715 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 484

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 050

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDITIONAL ADDRESSEES ADDED)

MARCH 23

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, UK(N. I.)

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN LOYALIST CAMPS AFTER WHITE PAPER

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN PERIOD BEFORE MARCH 27 SHOWDOWN MEETING
ORTHODOX UNIONISTS ARE BEING TORN BETWEEN FAULKNER' S ACCEPT
- BUT - NEGOTIATE - THE - BAD - PARTS REACTION TO WHITE
PAPER AND CRAIG' S TOTAL REJECTION OF IT. MODERATES OF ALL
PERSUASIONS, INCLUDING SOME UNIONISTS AND EX- UNIONISTS, HAVE
MET AND AGREED ON PLATFORM THAT CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF WHITE
PAPER AND REFUTED SOME OF MOST STRIDENTLY PRESSED CRITICISMS.
COMPLEXITY AND INGENUITY OF WHITE PAPER NOW SINKING IN GIVES
FOOD FOR SUSPICIOUS THOUGHT. WITH SOME EVIDENCE OF SECOND
THOUGHTS IN LEADERSHIP, NEWLY- FORMED UNITED LOYALIST ACTION
GROUP CONTINUES WITH PLANS FOR MASS RALLY MARCH 24. STILL
NO EVIDENCE OF ANY PARTICULAR ELEVATION OF VIOLENCE DUE TO
WHITE PAPER. END SUMMARY

1. UNIONIST PARTY SEEMS HEADED FOR LEADERSHIP SHOWDOWN AT MARCH
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27 MEETING OF COUNCIL. ALREADY SEVERAL LOCAL CONSTITUENCY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE VOTED TO SUPPORT CRAIG. FAULKNER REMAINS CONFIDENT HIS POLICIES WILL BE SUPPORTED, HOWEVER.

2. MODERATES OF UNIONIST, ALLIANCE AND NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTIES, TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF NEW ULSTER MOVEMENT (NUM), MET YESTERDAY TO TAKE POSITION ON WHITE PAPER. THIS GROUP RESPECTED NAMES IN N. I. POLITICS, HAS BEEN DISCUSSING SITUATION OVER PAST FEW WEEKS IN EFFORT TO FORM COALITION OF MODERATES. PARTICIPATING WERE STRATTON MILLS, ROBIN BAILIE, SIR ROBERT PORTER, TOM CALDWELL, MILLAR CAMERON (ALL PROMINENT UNIONIST POLICICOS); NILP' S BRIAN GARRETT; ALLIANCE PARTY' S PHELM O' NEILL, BASIL GLASS, OLIVER NAPIER, JIM HENDRON, BERTIE MCCONNELL, BOB COOPER AND DENIS LORETTO; AND NUM' S BRIAN WALKER. WITH NILP MP STORMONT, VIVIAN SIMPSON IN CHAIR, GROUP ADOPTED FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) CENTRAL FEATURE OF WHITE PAPER IS THAT WHOLE COMMUNITY, BY RESPONSIBLE COMPROMISE, MUST ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT GENUINE POWER SHARING; REJECTION OF WHITE PAPER WOULD MEAN CONTINUED DIRECT RULE.

B) CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF N. I. IS NOT IMPERILED BY WHITE PAPER; STATEMENTS TO CONTRARY ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

C) WHILE INCREASE OF REPRESENTATION AT WESTMINSTER CAN PROPERLY BE SOUGHT, PRESENT PROPOSALS IN NO WAY CREATE SECOND-CLASS

CITIZENSHIP: IN CONTRAST, NEW AND MAJOR POWERS UNIQUE IN UK OVER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE ARE BEING OFFERED.

D) HMG HAS OFFERED PEOPLE OF N. I. FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THEY CAN REBUILD AND TRANSFORM POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF PROVINCE.

3. (UNIONIST) " NEWS LETTER" CONTINUES WITH ITS DOUBTFUL LINE ABOUT WHITE PAPER. CONCEDED IT IS " VERY CLEVER DOCUMENT," LEAD EDITORIAL SEES IN THAT FACT A MAJOR FAULT OF PROPOSALS: THEY ARE TOO COMPLEX FOR MAN IN STREET TO UNDERSTAND AND THUS HE IS AT MERCY OF POLITICIANS AND OTHERS " NOT DISINTERESTED IN THEIR OWN FUTURE." EDITORIAL NOTES WHITE PAPER IS EXPLICIT ON HOW PRESIDING OFFICER OF ASSEMBLY IS CHOSEN (ELECTION) BUT NOT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, MEANING SECRETARY OF STATE IN FACT SELECTS THEM SINCE HE MUST GIVE " FORMAL" APPROVAL. " NEWS LETTER" ALSO POINTS OUT THAT PROVISIONS ON CONFERENCE ON RELATIONS WITH SOUTH CONSTITUTE " SMOKESCREEN"; FACT IS THAT TALKS WILL BE THREE- WAY WITH ULSTER REPRESENTATIVES IN " MINORITY SITUATION

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THAT WOULD BE QUOTE UNACCEPTABLE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF PLEBISCITE HELD ONLY A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO. NOT EVEN THE OPTION OF HOLDING SUCH TALKS IS LEFT WITH ASSEMBLY ONCE IT HAS BEEN ELECTED: THEY ARE PART OF PACKAGE. ON THIS POINT THERE CAN ONLY BE FLAT REJECTION."

4. ALTHOUGH MASS RALLY OF RIGHTIST UNIONED LOYALIST ACTION GROUP IS STILL ON FOR SATURDAY, ONE OF ITS ORIGINAL PROPONENTS, UNIONIST MP AT WESTMINSTER ORR, MAY BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS. HE ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING RALLY SHOULD BE CALLED OFF FOR SECURITY REASONS, BUT PAISLEY AND CRAIG ARE SAYING RALLY CAN AND WILL GO AHEAD. WHETHER ORR WILL ATTEND RALLY IS AT MOMENT UNCLEAR; RALLY BACKERS SAY HE WILL. LAW HAS ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT OF RALLY AND CALLED FOR FULL TURNOUT.

5. STREET SCENE STILL "RELATIVELY CALM" ONLY SEVEN SHOOTING INCIDENTS LAST NIGHT.
PENBERTHY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELFAS00050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730337/aaaaifux.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971223
Subject: DEVELOPMENTS IN LOYALIST CAMPS AFTER WHITE PAPER
TAGS: PINT, UK
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO DUBLIN
LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005